

Spark Gap

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Countdown to Dayton



ARRL EXPO at Dayton Hamvention — the Countdown Is On

(ARRL: April 2008) With just over a month to go, the final details for the ARRL EXPO at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention®

are wrapping up and the secrets are being let out! This year's EXPO is meant to not only share in, but to embrace the Dayton Amateur Radio Association's (DARA) — host of Hamvention — theme of *Amateur Radio + People = Fellowship*. With more open-air areas and interactive booths within the ARRL EXPO, we hope to not only convey this message but provide easier opportunities for fellowship within the EXPO, offering more opportunities for interaction with the ARRL family. The Dayton Hamvention will be held May 16-18 at Hara Arena.

ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is overseeing the ARRL EXPO at Hamvention. "A new area within the EXPO this year is the ARRL Movie Room," she said. "We decided to try something a little different this year and create a cozy area to sit back and relax and watch a movie on the 10-foot screen. We are very pleased that Bob Allphin, K4UEE, Peter I participant and producer of the DXpedition video, will be a featured guest on Saturday in the movie room. This will be a unique opportunity to come and meet Bob, listen to additional commentary on the many DXpeditions he has been on and have some personal time to ask your questions about going on a DXpedition." Allphin has

visited 93 DXCC entities, operated from 50 and been on 33 DXpeditions, of which 6 set world records. He took 5th place at the 1996 WRTC with teammate James Pratt, N6IG.

Breen said that the Youth Lounge, organized by 2007 Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship recipient Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, will be up and running again this year. "With a bevy of activity for our young hams, the youth lounge is a full scale version of what every club and group can do to entice young hams to their events. This is a perfect opportunity to visit Andrea and the other volunteers in the areas and bring back ideas to your home clubs."

May

16-18

The 2008 Youth Dinner will also be on Saturday night, but with one change: Instead of being at a local restaurant, it will take place at the DARA clubhouse. Breen said, "We're very excited by the generosity the DARA Board of Directors

has shown to us. They let me know that the restaurant we've used the past couple of years for the youth dinner had gone out of business. So while I was searching for a new location, the DARA Board was meeting and decided to offer their clubhouse to the kids." Hartlage said she was thrilled with this option this year. "Not only can we enjoy a great pizza party at the clubhouse, but we can even have time to get on the air together! I'm so thankful to DARA for stepping up and helping us out in such a generous way."

Breen followed up, saying, "DARA's theme of fellowship extends into the EXPO area with their partnership with us, including a new area within EXPO that will be dedicated to the newer operators and future hams."

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Indiana Radio Club Council Meeting April, 5, 2008



Jack Parker, W8ISH,
Chairperson, Indiana
Radio Club Council

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W8ISH

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KB9LOT

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KC9CFK

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K9DY

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Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

The spring meeting of the Indiana Radio Club Council (IRCC) was held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Channel 8 studios in Indianapolis, Indiana. Business was conducted followed by a tour of the Channel 8 studios. MARC is a member of the Council.

Discussed was nominations for 2008 IRCC Technical Excellence Award. This award is given each year to an outstanding Indiana Amateur Radio Operator who has used their technical expertise to advance amateur radio in their club and community. Last year the award was presented to Kevin Berlin, K9HX. This year's award will be presented at a special ceremony during the 2008 Indianapolis Communications & Technology Expo in July. Clubs or individuals who know someone worthy of this award should visit the IRCC website at www.inarrl.org/ircc.html for more information.

Also discussed was the annual Indiana QSO & Bison Stampede party. The IRCC is the proud sponsor of the new club competition award this year going to the Indiana club turning in the highest aggregate score from its members. The annual running of the Indiana QSO Party (INQP) will be Saturday May 3 from 1600-0400Z. Rules are at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>. The Indiana QSO Party is a good opportunity to generate some excitement in your club and possibly win an attractive award plaque to display at your meetings. For more information go to the Hoosier DX and contest website at <http://www.hdxcc.org/>. Rules and information are provided there.

Hamfest Info

Hamfest season is certainly in full swing. The Columbus Hamfest on Saturday, March 30th was very well attended and the MARC VEC team, while not as busy as last year, still was kept busy with many taking their exams. KC9GCH, Linda Harshbarger, had a table filled with ARRL information that garnered its fair share of traffic. Many amateurs attending stopped by to chat.

Sunday, April 20th is the next scheduled hamfest. The Third Annual North Central Indiana Hamfest will take place at the Miami County 4H Fairgrounds located 2 miles north of Peru, Indiana on Mexico Road. Talk-in will be on the 147.345+ K9ZEV Miami County Amateur Radio Club repeater. Times are from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM EDT. Testing will be held from 8 AM to 10 AM. Grand prize is a 2 meter radio. For more information contact Robbie Robinson at 765-985-2811.

The 57th annual Dayton Hamvention will take place on Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18, 2008 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The hamvention includes 500 exhibit spaces inside the arena and 2,300 flea market spaces outside the arena. More than \$50,000 in prizes will be given out during the event. Tickets include admission to the ARRL EXPO located in the Hara Ballarena, near the 400 numbered booths. For more information see their website at www.hamvention.org.

The local Indianapolis Radio Club has once again rented a bus for a one day trip to the Dayton Hamvention on Saturday, May 17th, 2008. Seats are filling up fast due to the high cost of fuel. Seats are \$30 this year and include two stops to pick up and drop-off passengers and will include a breakfast stop on the way over and a supper stop on the way back. For more information, please go to their website at www.indyradioclub.org for information.

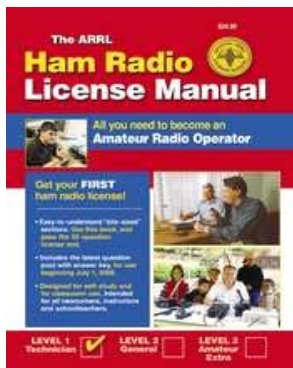
Technician Class

MARC's annual Spring Technician class has concluded. We had a total of 11 students of which 4 have already taken their technician exam and passed. Several others from the class have indicated they will stop by our next meeting to take their exams.

The White River Township Fire Department #51 training room was a perfect location for our class. Station #51 training room was fully equipped with the latest in technology. Instructors needed only to bring their teaching notes and visual examples and the overhead slides were provided for them. We had access to the internet and were able to show many examples of information available to amateur radio enthusiasts.

We currently are getting requests to hold a second class, probably in the Fall beginning shortly after the Labor Day weekend. If you are interested in taking a class or know someone who is interested, please call Linda at 887-2558 or e-mail to kc9gch@arrrl.net. If we have at least 10 students confirmed the class will be scheduled.

Many thanks to White River Township Fire Station #51 for the use of their facilities and for providing coffee the first evening of class (it was chilly). Also thanks to our instructors, Jack Parker, W8ISH (twice), Steve Carmean, K9DY, Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, Marc Snell, KC9CCM, Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, and Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH. Thanks to our supporters, Dave Daily, KB9LOT and Brenda Haler, KC9EBL for showing up to class to support our MARC instructors.



VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. For directions to the meeting and/or test site, please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org.

Volunteer Info

MARC has several events coming up where volunteers will be needed. To volunteer, please contact Jack Parker, W8ISH, at president@midstatehams.org or Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, at pio@midstatehams.org.

Saturday, April 19th - We will be at the Old National Bank on SR 135 just south of Smith Valley Road for their Weather Safety Class. The Johnson County EmComm Van will be there. Currently we have people who have volunteered to set up and provide amateur radio information during the 3 hour event. Please stop by and support our club.

Saturday, June 14th - White River Strawberry Festival at Pleasant Grove Elementary School. Activities are from 9 AM to 10:30 PM, however we probably won't be there that late in the evening. We have a couple of volunteers and do need several more for the event.

Saturday, June 28th - Greenwood Freedom Festival. This event may combine to include Field Day activities - stay tuned for more information. Volunteers are needed to answer questions and display amateur radio capabilities and possibly give tours of the Johnson County EmComm van.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well
as rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline.*

2008 Schedule of Events

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org, and we will record your check-in!



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org
317.887.2558

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APRIL 2008

- 2 Technician Class - 3rd Class - Covers Chapters 4 & 5 - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
White River Twp. Fire Dept. #51, Olive Branch Road & SR 135 South, Greenwood, IN
- 9 Technician Class - 4th Class - Covers Chapters 6 & 7 - 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
Final Class
White River Twp. Fire Dept. #51, Olive Branch Road & SR 135 South, Greenwood, IN
- 12 15K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer
- 18 ARRL World Amateur Radio Day**
IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) celebrates it's 83rd anniversary.
The theme of this year's celebration is Amateur Radio: A Foundation of Technical Knowledge For more information, go to website www.iaru.org
- 19 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 19 Weather Safety Program, Old National Bank, Greenwood, IN 10 AM to 1:00 PM**
Located across from Target on SR 135 just South of Smith Valley Road
- 20 North Central Indiana Hamfest, Peru, IN 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
Held at the Miami County 4H Fairgrounds, approximately 2 miles north of Peru, IN
Talk-in on 147.345+ K9ZEV Miami County Amateur Radio Club Repeater

MAY 2008

- 3 500 Festival Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer
- 16-19 57th Annual Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Dayton, OH**
Tickets and more information available via their website www.hamvention.org
Indianapolis Radio Club has again rented a bus for a day trip on May 17th. See their website at www.indyradioclub.org for information.
- 17 MARC Meeting - 8 AM**
VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 24 500 Festival Parade, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at www.Indyhams.org for more information or to volunteer

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.